

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 26, 2009
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: SB 52
AUTHOR: L. Correa

BILL SUMMARY: Public Safety Officer Medal of Honor

This bill would amend the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act. Among other changes, this bill would remove the limit on the number of candidates that the Public Safety Medal of Valor Review Board (Board) may recommend to the Attorney General (AG).

FISCAL SUMMARY

The bill prohibits costs incurred by members of the Board to be paid by the state. Additionally, the bill would prohibit the Board from holding hearings if donated funds are not available to the Board.

The AG must pay for the production of medals using existing resources. The cost per medal is minor at \$175; and, if there is no limit on the number of medals awarded, those costs would increase, which could be problematic during this time of limited state resources. However, the AG's Office notes that the bill would not have any fiscal impact.

The Governor's Office also would face additional workload if more than one medal is awarded annually.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Amendments to this bill since our analysis of the April 22, 2009 version are minor and do not alter our position. The latest amendments would add the California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations and the California Professional Firefighters to the list of members of the Board, and would prohibit the Board from holding hearings if donated funds are not available.

COMMENTS

Existing law provides a process for the Governor to annually award a Medal of Valor for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty. The medal is awarded after a recommendation by the Medal of Valor Review Board and citation by the AG. The Governor may award more than one medal in a year if there are exceptional circumstances. This medal is the highest state award for valor for a public safety officer.

This bill would remove the condition that exceptional circumstances must exist in order to award more than one of these medals. The bill also would specify that board members not be compensated with state funds for their time and expenses, but that donated funds could be used for this purpose.

The consideration of additional medal recipients could lead to increased workload for the AG and Governor's Office. The AG's Office has reported no fiscal impact as a result of this bill.

Analyst/Principal (0211) J. Osborn	Date	Program Budget Manager Todd Jerue	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)**Form DF-43****AUTHOR****AMENDMENT DATE****BILL NUMBER**

L. Correa

June 26, 2009

SB 52

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							Fund
	RV	98	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	Code
0500/Governor Ofc	SO	No	-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----			0001
0820/Justice	SO	No	-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----			0001